



~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Buenos Aires

1/26/84

BJ 010

January 26, 1984

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Mrs. FNU Cerruti  
Mrs. Rene Epelbaum  
Mrs. Carmen Lapacó

All are Governing Board members of the Mothers  
of the Plaza de Mayo.

Ambassador Frank Ortiz  
Political Officer Tony Allitto

DATE/PLACE : January 26, 1984, in the Ambassador's Office

SUBJECT : Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo

DISTRIBUTION: AMB                      ARA/SC  
                 DCM                      HA/HR  
                 POL-3                      INR/IAA

The Ambassador had asked the Mothers to visit him so he could introduce himself as the new American Ambassador, meet them, and hear their views. President Hebe de Bonafini and Vice President Maria Adela Antokoletz could not attend.

The Mothers related the events in Argentina during the so-called "dirty war" as they were affected by them. They said they are not seeking vengeance - only justice. They also explained why they are so adamantly against the Alfonsín Government's plan for trials of the military by military courts with appeal to a civilian appellate court possible. They explained the way Argentina's juridical system works at present the civilian appellate court would not be able to review the entire case, but would only be able to study new evidence presented. Thus, the Mothers fear, the cases will be pretty much decided in the military courts, which will be far more lenient than civilian courts.

The Ambassador explained that the "dirty war" also affected U.S. citizens. The Embassy is seeking information from the GOA leading to the prosecution of those responsible for the

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (☒) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

~~DECL:OADR~~

86F93

48/293

UNCLASSIFIED

2

disappearance of three American citizens and justice for the murder of the honorary American consul in Cordoba. He added that the issue of justice for other disappearances, etc., was essentially an internal Argentine matter. Now that Argentina has a functioning democracy with freedom of expression, a Congress, an independent judiciary, and an informed public opinion, the road seemed clear for some form of action to assure justice. The Mothers indicated that they understood and restated their appreciation for the many supportive actions of the U.S. Government and of the Embassy during the most difficult times.

Drafted by: POL:JAA11itto:jmr *Jaa*

Cleared by: AMB:FVOrtiz *NO*